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USSR

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1. REPORT ON "PER"
2. PROPOSED FINANCIAL TRANSACTION (1942)

From: STOCKHOLM

To: MOSCOW

No: 606

30 Mar. 42

To [Name No. 42]. [i]

1. In reply to your telegram No. 1011. [a]

The [B% Editorial Board] of the new Swedish evening paper "Aftontidning" has expressed a desire to send "PER" [ii] to HELSINKI as its correspondent. The matter is under discussion.

"PER". He was born in NORWAY in 1917. For the last six years he has been a correspondent representing Norwegian papers in a number of European countries. He was Foreign Editor of the Norwegian Morgenposten when QUISLING came to power, and later became this paper's correspondent in HELSINKI. 3 months ago he broke finally with the paper and crossed into SWEDEN. I doubted whether this breach [D% had escaped notice] and [C% had been kept secret]. The information about him, which has been obtained through general conversation with officials of the Norwegian and British Legations and with correspondents, suggests that this could not have been the case. His parents are in OSLO. His father has twice been arrested and has now been dismissed from government service. Through a British colleague he will soon [1 group unrecovered] to SWEDEN.

We are merely on friendly terms. I have sometimes discussed purely military topics with him (for results see telegrams), [iii] changing the subject at intervals to general political questions.

Distribution

\* or a Norwegian paper. [Continued overleaf]

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Trustworthiness. He still needs to be checked against a series of reports and a series of facts about his friends in SWEDEN and ENGLAND which [B%] I am investigating. [3 groups unrecovered] [C% trustworthiness].

Date of departure. In about two or three weeks' time.

The only difficulty which is likely to arise in his negotiations with the paper is over money matters. I therefore consider that we might pay him an additional 400 to 500 kronor a month and tell him to go ahead and sign an agreement with the paper for three months. If he justifies his presence there, it is then up to the paper to increase his pay. The fact that he [5 groups unrecovered] pay, will make his position seem legitimate to the paper.

Means of Communication. Through a friend of his who is a Finnish airman on the courier aircraft. Once a week "PER" writes a letter addressed alternately to each of two Swedish girls and I keep in regular contact with them. Reports are written in between the lines in a special solution. The letters are always passed on by hand. Communication with the girls is in Norwegian.

I admit your [B% consent]. [1 group unrecovered] if, during this time, I [2 groups unrecovered] [C% aggravate] his [1 group unrecovered], draw him into the work?

[2.][b] In reply to your telegram No. 1045.[c]

It will be possible to carry out the transaction with Finnish marks on 1st April, beginning straight away with a sum of up to 2,000,000 or 3,000,000, and also to change 1,000,000 German marks into Swedish kronor or American dollars at a rate of exchange of approximately 65 öre to the mark. The amount may be increased later. All [1 group unrecovered] through "PER" and his airman. If [2 groups unrecovered], we shall gain their goodwill by this means.

No. 43

[Name No. 64][iv]

[Name No. 16][v]

From now on we shall encipher telegrams with the emergency system.

No. 44

[Name No. 64]

Notes: [a] Internal Serial of MOSCOW's No. 227 of 27th March 1942 (3/NBF/T1496).

[b] Inserted by translator.

[c] Internal Serial of MOSCOW's No. 234 of 29th March 1942 (3/NBF/T1505)

Comments: [i] Name No. 42 : In 1943 this is thought to refer to Capt. (1st Rank) M. A. VORONTSOV, but may not do so at this time.

[ii] PER : Unidentified cover-name.

[iii] For example, see STOCKHOLM's No. 471 of 10th March 1942 (3/NBF/T1474)

[iv] Name No. 64 : Unidentified STOCKHOLM signatory.

[v] Name No. 16 : Cipher officer in MOSCOW.

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